



“Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.” 1 Thessalonians 5:15

**Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Wednesday, November 26, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP: “For the Beauty of the Earth”

Handbell Trio: Kyla Betts, Linda Kunz, Julie Nygaard

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

THANKSGIVING LITANY: Psalm 65

P: Hallelujah! How good is it to sing praises to our God!

C: How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

P: The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.

C: The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

P: The LORD counts the number of stars and calls them all by their names.

C: Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

P: The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.

C: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

P: who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making the grass to grow upon the mountains.

C: God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

P: God is not impressed by the might of the horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,

C: but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love.

ALL: worship the LORD O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.

SONG OF PRAISE: "I Love You, Lord" #573 African American Heritage Hymnal

I love you, LORD, and I lift my voice
To worship You, O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, my King, in what You hear:
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

All: Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM: "A Thankful Heart"

Doug Bar, Kyla Betts, Julie Nygaard, Glen VanRossum

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 8:7-18

⁶⁻⁹ So it's paramount that you keep the commandments of GOD, your God, walk down the roads he shows you and reverently respect him. GOD is about to bring you into a good land, a land with brooks and rivers, springs and lakes, streams out of the hills and through the valleys. It's a land of wheat and barley, of vines and figs and pomegranates, of olives, oil, and honey. It's land where you'll never go hungry—always food on the table and a roof over your head. It's a land where you'll get iron out of rocks and mine copper from the hills. ¹⁰ After a meal, satisfied, bless GOD, your God, for the good land he has given you. ¹¹⁻¹⁶ Make sure you don't forget GOD, your God, by not keeping his commandments, his rules and regulations that I command you today. Make sure that when you eat and are satisfied, build pleasant houses and settle in, see your herds and flocks flourish and more and more money come in, watch your standard of living going up and up—make sure you don't become so full of yourself and your things that you forget GOD, your God, the God who delivered you from Egyptian slavery; the God who led you through that huge and fearsome wilderness, those desolate, arid badlands crawling with fiery snakes and scorpions; the God who gave you water gushing from hard rock; the God who gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never heard of, in order to give you a taste of the hard life, to test you so that you would be prepared to live well in the days ahead of you. ¹⁷⁻¹⁸ If you start thinking to yourselves, "I did all this. And all by myself. I'm rich. It's all mine!"—well, think again. Remember that GOD, your God, gave you the strength to produce all this wealth so as to confirm the covenant that he promised to your ancestors—as it is today.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: "We Thank You, Lord" Quartet

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 17th Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING: Luke 17:11-19

¹¹⁻¹³ It happened that as he made his way toward Jerusalem, he crossed over the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten men, all lepers, met him. They kept their distance but raised their voices, calling out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴⁻¹⁶ Taking a good look at them, he said, "Go, show

yourselves to the priests.” They went, and while still on their way, became clean. One of them, when he realized that he was healed, turned around and came back, shouting his gratitude, glorifying God. He kneeled at Jesus’ feet, so grateful. He couldn’t thank him enough—and he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Jesus said, “Were not ten healed? Where are the nine? Can none be found to come back and give glory to God except this outsider?” Then he said to him, “Get up. On your way. Your faith has healed and saved you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: “For the Beauty of the earth” #879 ELW

**Vs. 1: For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:**

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise *this our sacrifice of praise.*

**Vs. 2: For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain***

**Vs. 3: For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain***

**Vs. 4: For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain***

**Vs. 5: For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n: *Refrain***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Longing for Christ’s reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God’s power on the church, the world, and all in need.

Honk your horns three times after as you respond “Your mercy is great!”

P: Gracious God, you send from your abundance the people, talents, and resources needed for the work you have accomplished through your people, and we pray for your continued blessing in our ministries together especially the Stoughton Food Pantry and the Stoughton Area Resource Center. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Bountiful God, you feed us through the richness of the land, water, sunlight, and ample crops. Bless all those who cultivate the land to bring forth its bounty, especially farmers and migrant workers. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Merciful God, you order our lives by your providence. We give you thanks for laws, infrastructure, and leadership that structure and support our human endeavors. Align our purposes with your own, that all our undertakings might bring you glory. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Loving God, you open our hearts in compassion for one another. We give you thanks for the care and healing received through the hands and feet of your servants. Send us to love those most in need of your mercy especially those who are suffering from Covid-19. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Hospitable God, you connect and strengthen us through meals and conversation with family and friends. In this time of thanksgiving, steer us from passive receiving to active response, from old quarrels to reconciliation, and from overconsumption to true gratitude. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Eternal God, we give thanks for the love and care we have received from saints who have gone before us. By their example, enrich the generosity of our witness to others. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,**

thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING SONG: "May We Have Peace" #67 Borning Cry

**Vs. 1: O God, be gracious to us;
and may the face of the Lord shine upon us.
O God, continue to bless and may we have peace.**

**Vs. 2: Your ways are known on the earth,
your saving power among all the nations.
Let all the people give praise, for you are the peace.**

**Vs. 3: The earth has yielded its fruit;
And you have promised to come now and bless us.
Let all the earth fear the Lord, for God is our peace.**

POSTLUDE: "Now Thank We All Our God" Cruger/Hopson